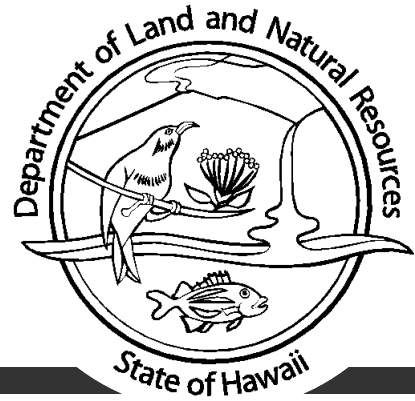


NEWS RELEASE

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TREE-PLANTING PROGRAM ANNOUNCES GRANT DEADLINES FOR 2000

The Kaulunani Urban and Community Forestry Program is now accepting grant applications for tree-planting, educational and technical tree care programs, and Arbor Day activities that enhance Hawai'i's urban forests. Kaulunani, a federally funded program administered by the Department of Land and Natural Resources' Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW), offers grants of \$500 to \$10,000 to non-federal community groups, local governments, schools and tree groups.

Application deadlines for 2000 are February 15, May 15, August 15 and November 15. The grants are given on a cost-share basis to encourage local investment in the program.

Since last July, seven grants totaling nearly \$46,000 have been awarded, according to Teresa Trueman-Madriaga, Kaulunani program coordinator. "We want to encourage non-profit organizations and communities across the state to submit an application and become part of the growing number of groups that are "greening" Hawaii's neighborhoods and urban areas," Trueman-Madriaga said.

Among some of the interesting projects funded by Kaulunani recently are Kona Community Hospital's Healing Garden, the West Hawai'i Hockey tree-planting project, a tree pruning demonstration project at Kahakai Elementary School on the Big Island, and a noise abatement project at the Honolulu Zoo.

Kona Hospital's Healing Garden, now under construction, includes a Family Garden, two Quiet Gardens and a Sanctuary Garden, all designed to give patients, visitors and staff a comforting outdoor experience.

Volunteers who helped build a state-of-the-art inline hockey facility for West Hawai'i youth will now transform the facility's barren, rocky surroundings into a shady, park-like property by planting 31 trees purchased with a Kaulunani grant.

Kahakai Elementary School received two tree-planting grants in 1992 and 1995 that helped the school shade and cool its classrooms and playground by 10 degrees. With the trees in grave need of pruning, the Kailua-Kona Outdoor Circle, fearful of poor arboricultural practices, received funding for a tree pruning demon-

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stration. An all-volunteer crew took on the pruning project for the 1999 Make A Difference Day.

A recently completed landscape project at the Honolulu Zoo created berms along walkways and the perimeter of the zoo's stage lawn to reduce noise for the animal exhibits adjacent to the stage area. Thirty-nine trees and 923 shrubs and groundcovers were planted by 86 volunteers who donated 341 hours of time.

Kaulunani grant applications and further information about the program are available by calling Jackie Lee Rayla at 672-5167 or Teresa Trueman-Madriaga at 672-3383, (Oahu numbers).

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(Note to editors: If you would like more information or would like to visit Kaulunani projects underway or recently completed in your area, please let us know.)